

Dear Js,

4/24/73

Ordinarily I would not send you a tape like this one. In this case, while much of the hour will not interest you, there is some that will. It is most of a conversation with Mrs. Lillian Drury, of Washington, from whom I've heard irregularly over the years. She says her former husband, Alfred or Arthur C, is and was CIA, about to return.

As you will detect, much of the story was familiar to me. You will not detect any indication of contradiction in anything she has told me in the past because there is none. I do not, of course, remember all the details of many long conversations, a number taped. But I remember enough to be certain on this. I don't think she could invent and remember inventions with such fidelity. I do think she is a bit flakey, as the kind of life she has described would make close to inevitable.

This is the first time I've heard from her since the WG arrests. What she says of it interests. Rather of the Cuban end and the Cubans. And McCord.

In this part there is, I think, a kind of authentication, for she casts him correctly in a role in CIA that would not be possible from what has appeared in the papers. Or, this tends to persuade that she is not repeating what she has read. From what is publicly known, she could have known that he is an electronics specialist, or a sort of chief guard, the role in which Mitchell tried to cast him. But from what has never been indicated in anything published, from what Fletcher Prouty has said of him in private, this is precisely the kind of function he had within CIA. There was the time, for example, when repatriated US fliers, I think the Van case, described the Russians who had interrogated them. McCord has given their descriptions and within 24 hours returned with their pictures, according to Prouty.

She has the right name for Barker's daughter, and the right current employment. Maybe she doesn't know her, but I see no reason for the invention.

If I have no reason to suspect that Drury was part of the Bay of Pigs, I also have none for discarding her suspicion out of hand.

She refers to the name Casanova. She was married to a Casanova in I think Ft. Lauderdale prior to her marriage to Drury. The Californian to whom she refers she referred to first when Bobby was killed, and this is consistent with what she then said, if not identical. My perfunctory checking then gave him a good character.

She is a radical-right, it appears. I have never met her. At first she told me how to phone her and her address and invited me there. She has not pressed on this. All her conversations have some anti-Communist content, and Communism is with her a generality.

What she does not refer to in this conversation she has, often, in the past, and that is the part she attributed to her husband in the Indonesian overthrow. She has placed him in Saigon every time. One of these operations she says was titled Haylift. I do not recall her mentioning the Italian base before, but the story of her former husband as the one well-fed Nazi prisoner is not new.

I have dealt with flakey women before and I do not dismiss what they say out of hand simply because they are flakey or seem to be. Two in N.O. are Dione and Marge Kirkpatrick. With them the most unlikely stuff checked out. I think you can imagine my surprise when the Secret Service confirmed their interest in her son Godfrey for the security of the president they would not identify.

Mrs. Drury phoned last night, when we had decided to watch Don Quixote on TV with Rex Harrison. The conversation last about an hour and a half. I missed much WG news that followed it. And I was too tired, having gotten up a little after four. This ended about midnight. I was up and sleepless at 5, not uncommon these days of the early sun. Real or imagined, she has given me the stuff of a good spook novel I'll never write. If any of it seems worth trying to do something with, I'd like your opinions if you take the time to listen to it. No rush on returning the cassette, which I'll keep only for the novel possibilities. I'll remember the rest. Interesting on Dorothy, too.

HW